

Missouri Completion Academy

The Sequel

Moberly Area Community College

Academic Maps

- Foundation work
 - Weak-in-Three model
 - Un-interrupted developmental pathway message
 - Academic Planner (two-year plan)
 - High-touch advising

Academic Maps

- Meta-majors identified
- Milestones implemented
- Change of DEV prefix to MTH and LAL
- Curriculum change underway to require developmental course in first semester
- Website enhancements

<http://www.macc.edu/index.php/associate-of-arts?id=106>

Alternate Remediation Pathways

- Foundation work
 - Alignment of expectations between developmental and college math and English
 - College Orientation (with two-year plan) completed in first semester
 - Math and English redesigned courses
 - Eight-week pairing of Intermediate and College Algebra
 - Discussions with Compass/ACT to meet testing/placement needs

Alternate Remediation Pathways

- Multiple measures of placement
 - Writing appeal (piloted fall 2014)
 - Math appeal (will pilot in spring 2015)
 - Math placement by HS GPA (piloted fall 2014)
- Workshop (will pilot in spring 2015)
- Boot camp (will pilot in summer 2015)
- Co-requisite courses (under development for English)
- Blended reading/writing developmental course (under development)

Block Scheduling

- Foundation work
 - All sites now have primarily MW/TuTh schedule
 - Two-year plan in College Orientation predicts enrollment
- Developing process for centralized and consistent scheduling

Engagement

- Completion Team consisting of faculty, administrators, advisors, and financial aid rep
- Workshops for faculty and staff focusing on completion
 - Spring 2014 faculty workshop (invited other CCs)
 - General session by Dr. Katie Hern
 - Fall 2014 opening faculty/staff workshop
 - General session by Dr. Kent Farnsworth
- Advisors working with faculty and program directors on academic maps
- English and Math faculty developing workshop, boot camp, and co-req models
- IT and web departments involved
- Superintendents, counselors, and other K12 representatives made aware of completion initiatives

Challenges

- Aggressive timeline
- Faculty and staff buy-in
- Co-requisite logistical issues
- Accelerated remediation (message)
- Enrollment fluctuations/guaranteed schedule
- Need for data
- Need for time and resources
- Communication across multiple sites
- Swirling students and those not aspiring to a degree
- Transfer math (College Algebra)
- Tunnel vision in retention efforts

Solutions

- Expanded Completion Team
- Enhanced communication
 - Met with English and Math departments
 - Gave numerous presentations on academic maps
- Brought in outside speakers/experts
- Recruited faculty and staff most interested in developing strategies
- Designed pilots to more easily capture data
- Designing workshop, boot camp, and co-requisite remediation to align with various levels of student preparation

Lessons Learned

- Don't assume anything.
- Grassroots efforts are important.
- Time passes quickly (easy to get mired in day-to-day activities).
- Don't ignore the value of face-to-face meetings.
- People are open to change, but it has to be presented in a way in which they perceive the value of change.
- Completion must be emphasized as everyone's responsibility.

Issues Yet to Be Resolved

- Co-requisite logistical issues (scheduling, faculty load, faculty credentials)
- Enforcement of academic maps and milestones (how heavy-handed?)
- Effectiveness of multiple measures (follow-up studies needed)
- Perception that some courses or disciplines aren't valued in completion initiatives
- Continued training and information sharing
- Moving forward with block scheduling (we build schedules manually)